valley walls. Stable reaches consist of banks less than 0.5 m-high composed of gravel with dogwood and alder growing to the water's edge. Stable reaches can also be braided with poorly vegetated cobble bars. It is assumed that the cobble bars formed during the January 1997 flood. Unstable reaches have 0.5 to 1.5 m-high vertical banks composed of organic rich silt (old beaver pond deposits). These banks are typically being undercut with frequent sloughing of the upper grass root-bound layer. They are considered to have low to moderate fine-sediment erosion potential depending on the length of the exposed bank (Figure 4-27). Areas considered to have high erosion potential are cut banks of beaver pond deposits higher than 1.5 m or escarpments where the stream is cutting into valley walls of glacial till. Overall, the glacial till/beaver meadow reach has a moderate amount of fine sediment available for erosion.

Figure 4-27. Failing bank of fine beaver-pond deposits is rated "low" in fine sediment availability due to low bank height and dense roots fully penetrating bank. The ice axe is 0.75 m tall. Till plain/beaver meadow reach of Ward Creek.

Summary

The alluvial fan reach has few areas actively eroding, and those that are appear to be composed of coarse material. Collectively this reach is probably not a great contributor of fine sediment. The canyon/moraine reach has several escarpments where the channel has cut into the morainal valley. These show up as side-slope erosion peaks between river km 0.7 and 3.5 (Figures 4-32 C and 4-29). Individually these locations offer a high potential to contribute fine sediment due to large area exposed. Most of this reach is well protected by vegetation and the bedrock portion simply erodes at an imperceptibly slow rate compared to the unconsolidated reaches. The lower part of the glacial till/beaver meadow reach has several "high" erosional areas associated with escarpments from 6 to 12 m-high. The remainder of the erosion is rated moderate due to the high vegetation level or greater density of large particles in the making up the banks. The middle of the reach is rated high overall due to the length, height, and